

Item #41: Site Preparation on Slopes Exceeding 40%

Evaluation Question: Are cutover areas on steeper slopes receiving timely site preparation to contribute to regeneration within prescribed time limits and standards?

Resources to be measured: Acres of site preparation on slopes greater than 40%, by year.

Data Sources:

- FACTS query for stands with completed site preparation
- GIS slope data

This monitoring item is related to reforestation monitoring, addressed in Item # 39. The data below reflects site preparation since 1998.

Table 41-1. Acres of Site Preparation on Slopes Greater than 40%

Year	Acres > 40%	% over 40
1998	282	12%
1999	47	2%
2000	47	2%
2001	20	1%
2002	112	5%
2003	124	6%
2004	104	5%
2005	68	3%
2006	19	1%
2007	68	3%
AVE	89	4%

Over the decade, site preparation has occurred on 891 acres greater than 40% slope, while harvest has occurred on 10,969 acres. The reason for this large discrepancy is the large acreage of fire salvage within the decade. In most harvested areas which were previously burned, adequate trees remained to provide seed for the new stands, or planting was feasible, without any further soil disturbance or site preparation.

For this reason, this monitoring item in and of itself is not very meaningful. Site preparation typically occurs the year following harvest, so no direct comparison to item #37 can be made. If the underlying concern is timeliness of regeneration, then monitoring item #39 may be a better measure. This item shows that regeneration is well within prescribed timeframes. With the small amount of harvest occurring on steep slopes on an annual basis, this may no longer be an item that merits tracking.

Recommended Actions: Recommend that this item be discontinued.